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1/12/51 SCD

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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TOPIC Military Information from Plauen

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DATE OF CONTENT 10 to 14 January 1951

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DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 8 March 1951

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The Alte Infanterie Kaserne or Koenig Georg Kaserne in Plauen (N 51/K 12) quartered not more than 450 to 500 troops between 10 and 14 January 1951. Most of the barracks buildings were stripped and uninhabitable. Specifically, the installation quartered about 50 signal troops in the building at the intersection of Mueckenbergerstrasse and Mettestrasse; about 300 troops in the building adjoining to the north; and not more than 100 troops in the northernmost building fronting on Mettestrasse. Weapons observed included 12 to 16 short-barreled 120-mm howitzers without muzzle brakes, ten 76-mm AT guns, and four to six light 37-mm AT guns. Both the howitzer artillery unit and the AT artillery unit [REDACTED] The troops were mostly trained with two 76-mm AT guns. It was observed that they never drilled with the field howitzers in the barracks yard. [REDACTED]

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2. The Hindenburg Kaserne was occupied by 1,000 to 1,500 troops [REDACTED]

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The troops, most of whom were recruits, wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. A few soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were also seen. They seemed to be artillerymen who belonged to the three SP guns standing in the billeting area. A colonel [REDACTED] was the commanding officer of the troops in the barracks installation. Since there was not enough garage space, the two available garages were being interconnected by a section, 8 to 10 meters long. Local residents said that the troops in the installation maintained a border guard detachment in Dobarenth near Gofell (N 51/J 91), which was allegedly equipped with six 37-mm AT guns. Mortars of 80 and 120 mm were seen with the infantry unit in the Hindenburg Kaserne. Troops were seen training with four mortars. Other weapons seen in the billeting area included AA machine guns, both with and without shields and with and without wheels; six 76mm AT guns without muzzle brakes; and three SP guns. [REDACTED] the AT artillery units in the Hindenburg Kaserne and those in the Infanterie Kaserne were affiliated. Training activity in the Hindenburg Kaserne concentrated on close-combat drill, in addition to basic training. The troops seemed to be well trained. [REDACTED]

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3. The Artillerie Kaserne quartered an AT artillery unit of about 100 troops and a signal unit of undetermined strength. The field howitzer battery [redacted] was no longer there. The AT artillery unit was equipped with heavy AT guns of about 76-mm without muzzle brakes. Nine AT guns were observed with the unit when it returned from field practice. Training was conducted with one or two AT guns. The signal troops wore red-bordered black epaulets with radio insignia. In addition to these units, a small detail of soldiers, wearing black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia was stationed in the Artillerie Kaserne. This unit was affiliated with the troops in the Hindenburg Kaserne. [redacted]

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- * [redacted] the Alte Infanterie Kaserne is believed to quarter the 87th Gun Arty Regt of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and a howitzer battalion [redacted] The battalion is probably an organic component of the regiment. The Hindenburg Kaserne is believed to quarter the division's 112th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt which has obviously reached a high standard in close-combat training. The border guard detachment allegedly stationed in Dobareuth near Gefell probably consisted of personnel of the 112th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt. The Artillerie Kaserne is believed to quarter an AT artillery unit of the 112th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt or of the 39th Gds Rifle Div and a signal unit of the First Gds Mocz Army. [redacted]

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